

NEWS RELEASE



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For Immediate Release

May 12, 2006

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MAN SENTENCED TO SIX YEARS FOR IMPERSONATING A LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER

Man used a badge to enter a home and rob victims

LAFAYETTE, LOUISIANA . . . United States Attorney Donald W. Washington announced today that **NICHOLAS P. CHAPMAN**, age 29, from Eunice, Louisiana, was sentenced today in federal court to **72 months (6 years) federal imprisonment to be followed by 1 years supervised release** by United States District Judge Rebecca Doherty for charges involving false impersonation of a federal officer and impersonator making a search. CHAPMAN was also ordered to pay restitution in the amount of \$1,300.

In November 2004, CHAPMAN entered a residence in Krotz Springs, Louisiana and identified himself as a U.S. Marshal. CHAPMAN was holding a badge and produced an automatic weapon. He told the residents he was searching for drugs. CHAPMAN proceeded to hold the residents at gunpoint while searching and ransacking the home. CHAPMAN repeatedly threatened the minor child of the victim, including placing a gun to the back of the head of the minor child. He robbed the victims of a substantial

amount of cash.

In January 2005, Officers of the St. Landry Parish Sheriff's Office and the Calcasieu Parish Sheriff's Office received consent from CHAPMAN'S spouse to search their residence which was located in Calcasieu Parish at the time. During the search, officers found and seized two shirts with "U.S. Marshal Agent" printed on them as well as a handgun. CHAPMAN was also picked out of a lineup by the victims.

CHAPMAN was never a law enforcement officer.

CHAPMAN was arrested in February 2005 after an investigation by the United States Marshal Service, the St. Landry Sheriff's Office, and the Calcasieu Parish Sheriff's Office. CHAPMAN was tried by a federal jury in November 2005 and was found guilty as charged.

Sentencing in federal court is determined by the discretion of federal judges and the governing statute. United States Sentencing Guidelines established by the United States Congress and the United States Sentencing Commission may only be used as guidelines by the judge. During the sentencing hearing, Judge Doherty sentenced CHAPMAN to six years, which is the statutory maximum. Due to the gravity of the harm committed (including holding the residents at gunpoint, searching and ransacking their home, repeatedly threatening a minor child by placing a firearm to the child's head, and robbing the victims of substantial amounts of cash). Parole has been abolished in the federal system.

This case was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney John Luke Walker.

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